



City of Omaha
Jim Suttle, Mayor

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For Immediate Release

Flood Response Update

Monday July 4th – Friday, July 8, 2011

July 8, 2011 –

The following information covers flood response activities for July 4-8, 2011:

- The Missouri River water elevation level is currently at 35.28 feet (flood stage is 29 feet), which is a foot lower than the water level last week at this time. This estimate was provided by the National Weather Service. The Gavins Point Dam is currently releasing 160,000 cubic feet per second.
- The dock area behind the Qwest Center was experiencing excess water from pumps overheating in the adjacent lot. Public Works is working to stop the overheating and believe they have found a solution to this problem.
- Navaro continues to work on a seepage berm along the levee from the site of International Paper south to Kinder Morgan. The berm is not meant to hold back water, but to maintain soil and stabilize the levee. Portable pumps are also being made available along that area of the levee.
- The Unified Command had their first meeting Friday, July 8, with representatives of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) who are beginning their assessment of preventative measures being taken by the City, County, Airport and all other organizations involved in managing the flood efforts on the Omaha side of the Missouri River.
- A storm sewer leak was discovered late Friday, July 08, creating water build up on the dry side of the levee around the Missouri River Waste Water Treatment Facility at 13th and Missouri Ave. The leak has been isolated by sandbags and divers were called in to assess the extent of the problem.
- The trail by Riverfront Drive is closed and will remain closed for approximately three weeks in order to put drainage pipes across the trail behind Rick's Boatyard Café. Closure of the trail will allow additional pipes to be connected to the channel feeding into the Missouri River.
- Unified Command has primarily been using three social media tools to spread flood information:
 1. Facebook – This page can be accessed by searching for "Douglas County Joint Information Center".
 2. Twitter – Follow @DouglasCty_JIC
 3. Website – www.omahaflood.org
- Volunteer sandbagging operations at Levi Carter Park will be open for business on Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Unified Command and the Coast Guard will begin a two week assessment of water craft needs associated with flood conditions along the riverfront. There will be media availability at Levi Carter Park by the boat ramps, Saturday, July 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Assistant Chief Dan Stolinski for information on the Coast Guard's activities. He can be reached at 402-953-7674.

Media Contact:

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